

# Freshwater Fishing

## Regulations

### Methods and Devices

• Game fish may be caught with only hook and line, fly rod, casting rod, pole and line or hand line. Not more than 2 of these devices may be used by any fisherman at the same time, except when fishing in a boat. An unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used if every occupant of the boat (who would normally be required to have a fishing license) possesses a valid fishing license.

• Bows and arrows for taking nongame fish only and cast nets for catching nongame bait fish may be in possession while fishing for game fish. Possession of cast nets is prohibited in Game Zone 1 except on Lake Keowee, Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek.

• Game fish may be used as bait to catch fish but must be included in daily bag limit.

**Seasons** - No closed freshwater game fish season except in the following areas:

• It is unlawful to harvest striped bass or hybrids in Savannah River from the Augusta Diversion Dam downstream to Fields Cut and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway until June 30, 2006.

• All watercraft and fishing are prohibited Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 on Cantey Bay, Black Bottom and Savannah Branch in Lake Marion.

• Portions of Howard, Corbin and Devil's Fork Creeks in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30, and a portion of Thompson River in Oconee County is closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30. Closed sections will be marked with signs.

• Hatchery WMA on Lake Moultrie is closed to fishing each Sat. morning and all day the last Sat. of the waterfowl season.

### Selling and Importing

• No freshwater game fish may be sold in this state except: 1) DNR permitted aquaculturist. 2) DNR wholesale aquaculture license. 3) DNR aquaculture game fish retail license. 4) Private pond owner selling less than \$2,500 in product annually.

• It is illegal to possess, import or sell any fish species that is not native to SC waters without a SCDNR permit.

• Sterile grass carp must be sold, purchased or possessed by SCDNR permitted vendors only.

#### Prohibited Practices

• Game or nongame fish may not be attracted or taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.

## Game Fish

• A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below.

• Special limits and regulations apply to DNR managed lakes. See chart on page 18.

• Check with State Parks, City Reservoirs or

County Parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

### Black bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Redeye & Spotted)

**Limit:** 10 fish combined total per day, except Slade's Lake, total of not more than 2 Largemouth bass per day and not more than 15 fish combined total per day. It is illegal to harvest largemouth bass in Lake Wallace, Marlboro County.

**Size:** 12-inch minimum for largemouth bass on Slade's Lake, Lakes Wylie, Marion, Moultrie, and the Georgia waters of the Savannah River and all its reservoirs.

### Striped bass and/or hybrids

**Limit:** 10 fish per day (See exceptions.)

**Size limit & exceptions:** 5 fish per day and 21-inch minimum size limit in the following areas:

1) Broad River from the lock and dam of the Columbia Canal to its confluence with lower Saluda River;

2) Saluda River from Lake Greenwood Dam to Lake Murray;

3) Lake Murray;

4) Lower Saluda river from the Lake Murray Dam to its confluence with Broad River;

5) Wateree River from the Lake Wateree Dam to its confluence with Congaree River;

6) Congaree River from the confluence of Broad and Lower Saluda rivers to its confluence with Wateree River;

7) Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the Diversion Canal;

8) the Tailrace Canal from Pinopolis Dam to Cooper River;

9) the east and west branches of Cooper River downstream to the US Highway 17 bridge;

10) Wando River;

11) the Rediversion Canal;

12) Santee River from the lake Marion Dam downstream to the Intracoastal Waterway.

#### Creel limit exceptions:

• Lakes Marion, Moultrie, Murray and Congaree River from Gervais Street Bridge seaward, during July and Aug., two of the five striped bass creel limit may be less than 21 inches.

**Effective October 1, 2005**-In the Savannah River and its tributaries and distributaries and the lands immediately adjacent to them from the J. Strom Thurmond Lake dam downstream to the mouth of the Savannah River Defined by a line from Jones Island, S. C. (also known as Oysterbed Island) point at N. 32° 02' W. 80° 53"; across Cockspur Island, "Georgia, point at N. 32° 01' W. 80° 52" to Lazaretto Creek, Georgia, point at 32° 01' W. 80° 52". - Unlawful to possess more than 2 striped bass, striped bass hybrids, white bass, or any combination of these species. Any lawfully possessed fish of each of these species must be a minimum of 27 inches.

### Cold water trout

**Limit:** 10 fish per day, 10 in possession. (See exceptions.)

#### Creel limit exceptions:

• Saluda River - not more than five trout may be taken in any one day from that portion of the lower Saluda River between the Lake Murray Dam and the confluence of the Broad River.

• Chattooga River (SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), and Cheohee Creek (SC Forestry Commission property) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release only) from Nov. 1 through May 14.

• Chattooga River (except SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah and Hartwell, Lake Hartwell Tailwater and Lake Russell - 8 trout per day, 8 in possession.

• Whitewater River in Oconee County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County, Middle Saluda River (lower foot bridge at Jones Gap Park upstream to Hwy 276), and Matthews Creek (upstream of Caesar's Head State Park) in Greenville County - 7 trout per day, 7 in possession.

• Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Road upstream to lower foot bridge at Jones Gap Park) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release year round).

• Lake Jocassee - 5 trout per day, 5 in possession.

**Size limit & exceptions:** No size limit, except Lake Jocassee, 15-inch minimum.

#### Bait/tackle restrictions:

• Artificial lures and bait can be used when fishing for trout. (See exceptions.)

#### Bait/tackle exceptions:

• Matthews Creek (from lower boundary of Caesar's Head State Park) and Middle Saluda River (Jones Gap Park lower foot bridge to Hwy 276) in Greenville County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County and Whitewater River in Oconee County - Artificial lures only.

• Lake Jocassee - It is unlawful to fish with corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them as bait on Lake Jocassee.

• Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted) between Nov. 1 and May 14 only artificial lures with single hook may be used.

• Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Rd. to the lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park), artificial lures with single hook (no treble hooks).

#### Seasons:

• Cold water trout can be fished for year-round. (See exceptions.)

#### Season exceptions:

• Howard Creek (from Corbin Creek upstream to Limberpole Creek), Corbin Creek (from Howard Creek upstream to SC 130), and Devils Fork Creek in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1 through Mar. 30.

• Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted). All coldwater trout caught between Nov. 1 and May 14 must be released and cannot be harvested.

- Middle Saluda River (catch and release area) open for fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. during daylight hours with a special daily permit obtained on-site.
- Cheohee Creek (Forestry Center lands) open to fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. from November 1 through May 14 and June 15 through June 22 of each year during daylight hours.

**Crappie, bream (including bluegill, flier, redbreast, warmouth, pumpkinseed and redear, longear and spotted sunfish), white bass, chain pickerel or jackfish, redbfin pike, yellow perch, white perch, walleye and sauger**

**Limit:** 30 fish per day. (See exceptions.)

**Creel limit exceptions:**

- Walleye and sauger - 8 fish per day on Lake Tugaloo, Yonah, Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond and the Chattooga River.

## Freshwater/Saltwater Dividing Line

The dividing line between saltwater and freshwater on the rivers listed is defined in this section, and all waters of the rivers and their tributaries, streams, and estuaries lying seaward of the dividing lines are considered saltwaters, and all waters lying landward or upstream from all dividing lines are considered freshwaters for purposes of licensing and regulating commercial and recreational fishing. Except as otherwise provided below, the saltwater/freshwater dividing line is U.S. Hwy. 17:

- 1) On Savannah River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the U.S. Hwy. 17A bridge.
- 2) Wright River is salt water for its entire length.
- 3) On Ashepoo River the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.
- 4) On New River the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.
- 5) Wallace River, Rantowles Creek, Long Branch Creek, and Shem Creek are saltwater for their entire lengths.
- 6) On Edisto River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.
- 7) On Ashley River the dividing line is the confluence of Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.
- 8) On Cooper River the dividing line is the seaward shoreline of Old Back River at the confluence of Old Back River downstream from Bushy Park Reservoir.
- 9) Wando River is saltwater for its entire length.
- 10) On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of S.C. Hwy. 9 and U.S. Hwy. 17.

## SCDNR Managed State Lakes

Lake*	County	Acres	Open Days	Boat/Motor	Creel/Size Limits <i>Catfish</i>	Creel/Size Limits <i>Bass</i>	Creel/Size Limits <i>Bream</i>	Minnows Allowed	Boat Ramp	Fishing Pier	Handicap Access
Ashwood	Lee	75	All Days	7.5 H.P.	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Bonneau Ferry WMA**	Berkeley	100	W, Sat, Sun*** Mar. 2 - Oct. 31	Electric Only	No Limit	2	10	Yes	X		
Edgar Brown	Barnwell	100	All Days	10 HP (Gas) North of Hospital Rd eastward. Any size south of Rd.	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	Yes	X	X	X
Cherokee	Cherokee	50	All Days	Electric Only	3	5	25	No	X	X	X
Dargans Pond	Darlington	50	W & Sat. (Apr. 1- Sept. 30)	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum) (2 bass may be under the size limit)	20	Yes	X	X	X
John D. Long	Union	80	All Days	Electric Only	3	3	20	No	X	X	X
Edwin Johnson	Spartanburg	40	All Days	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Jonesville	Union	35	M, W, Sat.	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Lancaster Resv.	Lancaster	62	Thur & Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	no	TBA	N/A	N/A
Mountain Lake 1	Chester	42	Tue, Thur, Sat., Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No	X	X	X
Mountain Lake 2	Chester	10	Tue, Thur, Sat., Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No		X	X
Oak Grove	Greenville	18	W & Sat.	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No			
Oliphant	Chester	40	M, W, Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (14" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Star Fort Pond	Greenwood	27	W, Fri, Sat. Apr. 1 -- Nov. 1	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No		X	X
Thicketty	Cherokee	100	All Days	6 HP (Gas)	No Limit	10	25	Yes	X		
Paul Wallace	Marlboro	280	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	0 (No harvesting)	20	No	X	X	X
George Warren	Hampton	400	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Webb Center**	Hampton	7&10	All Days***	Electric Only	No Limit	10	30	Yes			
Sunrise	Lancaster	25	M, W, Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Draper WMA***	York	1, 2 & 5	Wed-Mon.	No	3	3 (14" minimum)	15	No			

\* The days each impoundment is open can change. Contact your nearest SCDNR office to determine the open days of an individual lake.

\*\* Webb Center and Bonneau Ferry Lakes are closed on deer hunting days. Bonneau Ferry closed Saturdays in April until 11:00 AM.

\*\*\* Combined daily creel limits from all ponds. Adult/youth fishing only on Bonneau Ferry. Each youth must be accompanied by no more than two adults 18 years of age or older.